

ABSTRACT

The present invention discloses a method and apparatus for efficiently and dynamically exposing nodes of a map display used for monitoring and visualizing performance metrics components or entities of a dynamic heterogeneous system. The agents used to collect information from the entities or components in the system can request references from the nodes of the display map. In response to this request for references, the node exposes themselves to at least one agent by providing its identity to the requesting agent or agents. This ability for each node to expose itself to at least one agent in the system removes the need for the node to be intimately knowledgeable about the agent and hence the entity or component. As a result, no specific protocol, access mechanism or application is required for communication between the agent and the display map.